

Narrative Type: Performance Narrative
Narrative Title: arp - Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small-scale Irrigation
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Narrative Text:

1. Project Summary *(One short paragraph listing project context, geographic location (for BFS mechanisms), purpose, scope, key approaches, and goals. Mention the main beneficiaries and key stakeholders/partners—one option is to modify/update the OP narrative.)*

ILSSI is a five year effort that is identifying, evaluating and enhancing the adoption of innovations for small scale irrigation in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Ghana. It involves field studies of small scale irrigation (SSI) interventions, surveys of participating and surrounding households to assess the impact of SSI on economic, nutrition, and gender related outcomes and the application of an integrated suite of production, environmental and economic models to assess consequences of interventions and scale results towards the national level. Targets are farmer and farm communities, and policy and decision makers and private sector investors at regional and national levels.

2. FY15 Performance *(Discuss significant FY15 results and key FY15 actions. Describe the main beneficiaries. Why are the results important?)*

Initial results from field studies were obtained in Ethiopia and research was initiated in Tanzania and Ghana. Lessons learned from initial experiences in Ethiopia were incorporated into action plans for Tanzania and Ghana. The initial round of household surveys has been completed and reported for Ethiopia and data collection was completed for Tanzania. The Ghana survey is underway. Ex ante analyses of the consequences of SSI interventions using the Integrated Decision Support System (IDSS_ have been completed and reported in Ethiopia and will be completed for the other two countries in the first quarter of YR3. Training workshops for the IDSS were hosted by Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania involving a total of approximately 125 trainees comprised of graduate students, faculty, staff from other research entities and government officials. After its annual meeting in Tanzania, the External Advisory Committee provided a detailed report of its findings and recommendations. The main beneficiaries are small scale farmers in both the region of field studies and more broadly as results are scaled; private sector investors in the purchased inputs, including equipment for adopting the SSI interventions, investors and government entities that are informed about options for expanding SSI in the involved countries.

3. Successes and Challenges *(How will successes lead to desired outcomes? How is the IM adapting?)*

Successes: The active initiation and pursuit of YR2 objectives in all four components of the program has launched the operational phase of the program which is described in the workplan. Initial and ongoing communication with stakeholders is conveying these results in a timely manner. Program results in Ethiopia are more advanced and demonstrate the utility of the emerging product. Successful initiation of research in Tanzania and Ghana puts research in these countries on track. The successful completion of IDSS ex ante analyses in Ethiopia provides early guidance to ongoing research and to policy and decision makes at multiple levels of scale. Establishment of commercial home gardens using conservation agriculture and drip irrigation is engaging approximately 100 female farmers in the three countries.

Challenges: Acquisition of input data for the IDSS has had its challenges, but these are mostly resolved the objectives for YR2 will be met in the first quarter of YR3. Delays in initiating contracts with national organizations also delayed startup of field research, but this is now progressing well. Linkages with stakeholders in Tanzania are less developed than the other two countries because of limited ongoing presence in the country. Options for enhancing presence are being assessed. Detailed protocols for field research are in place in all three countries to improve the quality of data from field studies.

4. Description of Expected FY2016 Activities *(Only required for BFS IMs. Describe FY16 activities from the activity work plan, FY16 indicator targets, and relate to project goals.)*

Active research on field studies will be continued in YR3. The first round of household surveys will be completed and reported. The IDSS ex ante analyses for all 3 countries will be completed and ex post analyses initiated. Major emphasis will be placed on identification of constraints and their mitigation. This will involve the integration of field, survey, and analytic results into a common synthesis of results and the exploration of options to reduce or eliminate the most pressing constraints. Education and training initiatives will be continued in all three countries. Stakeholder engagement at multiple levels of scale, including USAID Missions, will be emphasized as we now have results in hand for meaningful communication. Partnerships with other feed the future innovation laboratories will be continued and expanded.

5. Relationship of Expected FY16 Activities to the Office's Strategic Objectives *(BFS WILL COMPLETE. Explain how FY16*

activities will relate to the intermediate results of your office, and the FTF Focus Countries in which the activity works.)

ILSSI fits within the FSIC Program on Sustainable Intensification which aligns with all of the Office of Agriculture, Research and Policy's Intermediate Results, especially with 1.2: Improved Agriculture Productivity Quality and Sustainability.

REVIEWED BY: Biniam Iyob

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